

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-10 were rejected in the Office action dated February 20, 2008. Reconsideration of all rejected claims is requested in light of the amendments and arguments presented.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0029637 to Hein Jr. et al. ("Hein"). Claim 1 is amended to recite, "a programmable logic device interposed between the master gaming controller and the digital sound system." Support for this amendment is provided for example in FIG. 2. In the Office action, under "Allowable Subject Matter," a programmable logic device was listed as an element that (in combination with other elements) defined patentable subject matter. It is believed that claim 1 as amended is allowable because this feature has not been shown in the cited references. Therefore, claim 1 is submitted to be allowable.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Furthermore, claims 2-10 recite additional elements that have not been shown in the cited reference.

For example, claim 10 recites, "said event sequencer is installed in a manner that prevents the digital signal processor from effecting operation of the master gaming controller." In contrast, the cited portion of Hein (paragraph 27) does not appear to disclose any such event sequencer in sound card 120'. Figure 1(b) indicates a connection between CPU 110 and sound card 120' and there is no indication that an event sequencer, or any other component of sound card 120' is installed in the manner of claim 10.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0029637 to Hein Jr. et al. ("Hein") as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,926 to Chang ("Chang"). However, no clear rationale is provided for the combination of references cited. In particular, the Office action stated that the digital signal processor of Hein "can also be additionally used for voice recognition as taught by Chang"

Office action, page 6, line 13. However, even if a digital signal processor can be used in such a way, this does not provide a reason for one of ordinary skill to modify Hein in this manner; it merely indicates that such modification is physically possible. Because no adequate rationale is provided to combine the references, claims 7-8 are submitted to be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 11-20 is acknowledged and appreciated.

New Claim

Claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 21 and 22 is directed to a programmable logic device interposed between the master gaming controller and the digital sound system, and are supported similarly to corresponding limitations in claim 11 (allowed). Claims 21 and 22 are submitted to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim, and furthermore for reciting additional features not shown in the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application; the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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